

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 and 16-25 are pending in the application. Claims 10-15 were canceled (Amendment of August 29, 2007). Claim 25 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-9 and 16-24 are rejected.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The response filed August 29, 2007 has been entered into the record in the context of an appeal to the Board of Appeals.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 1 is directed to a multicoat system on a substrate (A), which is comprised of a clear coat of at least one radiation-curable coating system (F), and, optionally, at least one coat (E), which is pigmented and/or provided with effect substances, and which is adjacent to and under coat (F). The coat is comprised of coating system (F) and optional coat (E), which constitutes a topcoat, and at least one elastic intercoat (D), which is located between the substrate (A) and the topcoat, and has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of -20°C or less (measured in the frequency range up to 1000 Hz). The substrate has an impact strength to DIN EN ISO 179/1fU at 23°C and 50 % humidity of at least 20 kJ/m², and the ratio (V) of the intercoat thickness (ZS) to the total thickness of the intercoat and the topcoat (DL), expressed as $V = ZS/(ZS + DL)$, in the multicoat system, is at least 0.05 at a temperature of at least 25°C. Support for the multicoat system as claimed can be found at page 2, lines 14-19 and lines 43-44 and page 33, lines 18-30 and 41-44.

GROUNDS OF REJECTION

Whether Claims 1-9 and 16-24 stand properly rejected based on 35 USC 103 as obvious over Mack et al, U.S. Patent 6,500,883 in view of Otaki et al, U.S. Patent 6,482,489 and Downey, U.S. Patent 3,880,953 or Korpman 4,136,071.